

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-17 are pending in the present Application. Applicant has amended claims 1 and 9. Applicant has also canceled claims 16-17. Consequently, claims 1-15 remain pending in the present Application.

In the above-identified Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 16-17 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

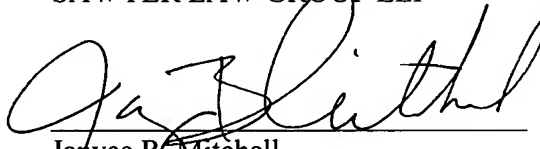
Applicant gratefully appreciates the Examiner's indication that claims 16-17 contain allowable subject matter. Applicant has amended claims 1 and 9, respectively, to include the limitations of claims 16 and 17. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1 and 9 are allowable over the cited references.

Claims 2-7 and 10-15 depend upon claims 1 and 9, respectively. Consequently, the arguments herein apply with full force to claims 2-7 and 10-15. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 2-7 and 10-15 are allowable over the cited references.

Applicant's attorney believes that this application is in condition for allowance. Should any unresolved issues remain, Examiner is invited to call Applicant's attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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August 7, 2003